

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 00466 241644Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 PA-02 INR-07 H-02 L-03 /031 W  
-----120074 241750Z /46

P R 241540Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5379  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 0466

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA P R 241539Z JAN 78 SENT ACTION  
USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1-PANAMA CITY.--THE PANAMANIAN PRESS CONTINUES TO KEEPT PACE WITH  
TREATY NEWS AND COMMENTARY FROM THE U.S. ALL DAILIES REGULARLY  
FRONT-PAGE EACH DAY'S WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE OF THE LATEST  
DEVELOPMENTS. SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA AND STAR & HERALD  
JANUARY 24 FRONT-PAGED AN AP STORY: "BYRD SPEEDS UP SCHEDULE:  
EARLY TREATY DEBATE SET," AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO  
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THE EFE VERSION OF THE SAME STORY TOP PAGE ONE: "TREATY DEBATE  
SPEEDED UP." GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LA REPUBLICA OF JANUARY 23  
CARRIED PAGE ONE ITS ENGLISH SECTION THE RECENT WILLIAM F.  
BUCKLEY COLUMN: "WHY NOT UNANIMOUS 'YES' SENATE VOTE ON  
TREATIES?"

2-GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TABLOID CRITICA JANUARY 24 CARRIES YET

ANOTHER EDIT WARNING AGAINST NEW TREATY AMENDMENTS. IN ITS LEAD EDIT, "WEEK OF PROOF FOR THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES," CRITICA WRAPS UP RECENT SENATORIAL VISITS AND BRIEFLY DESCRIBES THE POSITIONS OF SENATORS BAKER AND BYRD ACCORDING TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. "SENATOR ROBERT BYRD, DEMOCRATIC LEADER OF THE UPPER CHAMBER, IS THE GREAT OPTIMIST OF RATIFICATION IF HIS HIGH OFFICE IS CONSIDERED," SAYS CRITICA. "HE CONSIDERS IT WOULD BE 'A GREAT THING' IF PRESIDENT CARTER AND GENERAL TORRIJOS WOULD SIGN THE AGREEMENT THEY REACHED IN THE OCTOBER 14 WHITE HOUSE MEETING."

3-CRITICA CONTINUES: "HE SAYS THAT HE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS IF THE TWO LEADERS WOULD SIGN THE MEMORANDUM BEFORE THE SENATE VOTE BUT HE IS OPPOSED TO SENATOR GOLDWATER'S SUGGESTION THAT CARTER COME TO PANAMA TO SIGN THE FAR-REACHING ACCORD. GENERAL TORRIJOS WOULD HAVE TO GO TO WASHINGTON TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM IF CARTER DECIDES TO SEND THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT A NEW INVITATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE."

4-CRITICA CONCLUDES: "IT IS TIME THAT WE CATEGORICALLY MANIFEST OUR OPPOSITION TO GENERAL TORRIJOS' TRAVELLING TO THE U.S. FOR THE THIRD TIME ON TREATY BUSINESS. IN PRINCIPAL WE REAFFIRM WHAT WE SAID IN OUR EDITORIALS OF JANUARY 19 AND 20 FOR THE REASONS WE CITED. (BEGIN EMPHASIS) IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE AMERICAN SENATORS TO INTRODUCE NEW AMENDMENTS (END EMPHASIS) OBLIGING US IN ORDER TO APPROVE THEM TO CONVOKE A PLEBISCITE WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 00466 241644Z

WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY HUMILIATING FOR OUR PEOPLE." ITEM UNQUOTE  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TREATY RATIFICATION, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTIONS FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA P R 241539Z JAN 78 SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE  
WASHDC REPEATED FOR YO  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PBOR, EWWT, PN  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014